

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 14-140—HB 5305
Committee on Children

AN ACT CONCERNING CADMIUM LEVELS IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY

SUMMARY: This act delays, for two years, the ban on manufacturing, selling, offering for sale, or distributing in Connecticut children's jewelry containing more than .0075% (by weight) of elemental cadmium, or compounds or alloys containing it. Under prior law, the ban would have taken effect July 1, 2014.

By law, "children's jewelry" means jewelry designed or intended to be worn or used by children under age 13. It includes charms, bracelets, pendants, necklaces, earrings, or rings, and any of their components.

The act also establishes a 16-member task force to study the threshold at which cadmium is safe in children's jewelry. The task force must report to the Children's, General Law, and Public Health committees by January 15, 2015.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

TASK FORCE

Task force members include:

1. the commissioners of consumer protection and public health, or their designees;
2. the Children's and General Law committees' chairpersons and ranking members, or their designees;
3. a jewelry manufacturing industry representative, appointed by the House speaker;
4. a representative of a nonprofit organization promoting children's health and safety, appointed by the Senate president pro tempore;
5. a chemist with expertise in the bioavailability of heavy metals, appointed by the House majority leader (bioavailability refers to the extent to which a substance is absorbed by the body);
6. a child advocacy group member, appointed by the Senate majority leader;
7. a municipal public health director, appointed by the House minority leader; and
8. a state jewelry retail business or association representative, appointed by the Senate minority leader.

The chemist and health director serve as ex-officio task force members.

The act (1) requires all appointments to be made by July 6, 2014 and (2) allows legislators to be task force members. The appointing authority must fill any vacancy.

The Children's and General Law committees' House chairpersons must (1)

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serve as the task force chairpersons and (2) schedule the first meeting by August 5, 2014. The Children's and General Law committee administrative staffs serve as the task force's administrative staff.

The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Children's, General Law, and Public Health committees by January 15, 2015. It terminates on the date it submits the report or January 15, 2015, whichever is later.

BACKGROUND

Cadmium

The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services has determined that cadmium and its compounds are human carcinogens. A few studies in animals indicate that the young absorb more cadmium than adults. Animal studies also indicate that the young are more susceptible than adults to a loss of bone and decreased bone strength from exposure to cadmium.

OLR Tracking: KMD:KM:JKL:am